

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed March 25, 2005, claims 2-9 and 11-20 are allowed; claims 1 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakano et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,012,862). The foregoing rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 10 are amended for clarification. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 10 can be found at page 8 of the specification and FIG. 4. Claims 1-20 are pending and under consideration.

Nakano et al. discusses a paper feed structure having an arm member arranged between a paper ejection roller and an ejected paper stacker (see column 4, lines 41-48 and FIGS. 4-8). The arm member is movable between a first position projecting on the ejected paper stacker and a second position retracted from the ejected paper stacker. The arm member is projected in the first position when the paper ejecting roller rotates in a clockwise direction, and the arm member is retracted in a direction opposite to the ejecting direction (i.e., the second position) (see column 5, lines 20-26 and column 6, lines 6-10).

Nakano et al. fails to discuss "a paper stand rotatably installed under the ejecting roller which rotates to an upper limit thereof and supports the paper when the ejecting roller is rotated in an ejecting direction, and which rotates to a lower limit thereof and drops the paper into an output tray when the ejecting roller is rotated in a reverse direction to the ejecting direction," as recited in amended claims 1 and 10. That is, the arm member of Nakano et al. is not "rotatably installed". Therefore, the limitations discussed in Nakano et al. teach away from the claimed invention.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is respectfully requested.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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June 22, 2005

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